

## WASTE SPECTATORS

Have you ever wondered how much waste you generate? Try this simple experiment to find out. You may be surprised.

**Purpose:** Allows students to see how much waste they generate over a given period of time and how much of this waste can be recycled, reused, or composted.

### Materials:

- Container - Ask each student to bring in an ice cream, coffee or a margarine container, or a container of similar size with a lid.
- Tally Chart - Ask students to prepare a tally chart on a piece of paper and list items which they think will end up in their container by the end of the week - (i.e.) paper items/organic items/packaging wrappers/containers.

### Action Plan:

- Have each student place their container in their work area. All waste produced by that student during the week will go into their container. This includes lunch waste, school material waste, etc. Make sure the containers have lids or else it could get stinky.
- On the last day, have each student sort through their containers. Using their tally chart check off items that were discarded.

### Conclusions:

- Ask students to think about the waste they generated in one week and to imagine that waste multiplied by the number of students in the school.
- Once the items have been sorted, combine all the students' recyclable material in one pile, compost material in another and waste that will go to the landfill site into a separate pile. You may want to do this outside or on a tarp.
- What conclusion can the students make from this experiment?
- What are some ideas to reduce the waste that went into the pile going to the landfill site?